

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD A JOINT MEETING WITH THE FRANKLIN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2008, AT 5:00 P.M., IN THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING ROOM AT THE SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE.

- THERE WERE PRESENT:

Charles Wagner, Chairman  
Wayne Angell, Vice-Chairman  
David Hurt  
Russ Johnson  
Bobby Thompson  
Leland Mitchell
- ABSENT:

David Cundiff
- OTHERS PRESENT:

Richard E. Huff, II, County Administrator  
Christopher L. Whitlow, Asst. Co. Administrator  
Larry V. Moore, Asst. Co. Administrator  
Vincent K. Copenhagen, Director of Finance  
Sharon K. Tudor, CMC, Clerk

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Chairman Charles Wagner called the meeting to order.  
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Dr. Charles Lackey, Division Superintendent, stated the purpose of the meeting was to bring both Boards attention to the academic and fiscal sides and time lines for the Franklin County Facilities Study. Dr. Lackey stated some of schools were experiencing overcrowding conditions and there would be presentations from some of the school principals.

**GLADE HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL/LEAVINA G. LEE, PRINCIPAL**

Ms. Leavina Lee, Principal, Glade Hill School, shared with the group Sixth Graders and the Middle School Concept with the following table as follows:

ACADEMICALLY	PYSCHOLOGICALLY	SOCIALLY
Exploratory classes help students in the discovery process, 4 options per year, changing each 9 weeks; Advance placement opportunities  Remediation/Intervention for Math and English; Teachers are “experts” in a given subject area and are connected to teams/students; Academic excellence; 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students are doing well in Math and English with rising test scores.	Unique development needs of the adolescent. Advisory programs Adults advocate Guidance Counselors Flexible schedules Small learning communities through teaming. Three houses of learning support self-esteem, sense of self-worth and a sense of belonging.	Maturation/behaviors characteristic of adolescents Opportunities for sports involvement Clubs, Band, Choir Nurturing through teaming Independence Discipline

Mrs. Lee stated she did not believe it was a good idea to move the sixth-grade student from the middle school back to the elementary schools to eliminate the space needs. Mrs. Lee offered the following research data:

Ms. Lee stated research shows achievement scores are higher for students in schools that are teaming with high common planning time.

Team size and length of time of teaming affects student achievement scores.  
Teachers with middle grades certification engage more frequently in “best practices”.  
National Middle School Association. Reach Summary: Student Achievement and the Middle School Concept (September, 2006)

Kemp, (2007& states that in the 1970s less than 25% of middle schools included sixth grade. Now, the figure is 75% nationwide and 90% in North Carolina. The shift has come due to educators believing it was developmentally appropriate.  
Kemp, K. (2007). Elementary school for 6<sup>th</sup> graders? News and Observer.

There have been over 3,700 studies related to middle schools between 1991 and 2003 that supports the recognition that this is a special age of human growth and development. One of the strongest concepts is the division of student population into teams, what educators call “small interdisciplinary learning communities”.  
Portsmouth Herald. (November, 2006). Middle School Concept is Best Model.  
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**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL/TERRI ROBERTSON, PRINCIPAL**

Ms. Terri Robertson, Principal, Benjamin Franklin Middle School, shared with the Board the following PowerPoint presentation:

# Facilities Overview

Benjamin Franklin Middle School

December 2008

## ENROLLMENT & CAPACITY

ENROLLMENT	CAPACITY
Grade 6 (East): <b>535</b>	<b>509</b>
Grade 7 + ½ of Grade 8 (West): <b>847</b> (A Day)	<b>615</b>
Grade 7 + ½ of Grade 8 (West): <b>838</b> (B Day)	<b>615</b>

# PRIORITIZED CONCERNS

- 1. Lack of space for assembly of entire student body
- 2. Hallway overcrowding in West
- 3. Inadequate gym, weight room and health classroom space
- 4. Classroom usage in West: Number of teachers on carts, available rooms for planning & special meetings/ tutoring
- 5. Classroom space, especially for labs; technology-based instruction without adequate space and infrastructure

## 1. ASSEMBLY SPACE

### EXISTING ASSEMBLY AREAS



East  
auditorium  
capacity 150



West lecture  
capacity 135



Gym bleacher  
capacity East:  
150/West: 169  
  
With folding  
chairs: 450 &  
500

## December 2008 Band Concert



8<sup>th</sup> grade pictured here.

## Set-up for June 2008 8<sup>th</sup> Grade “Graduation” Assembly



## June 2008 8<sup>th</sup> Grade “Graduation”



## 2. WEST HALLWAY OVERCROWDING

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Hallway





### 3. Gym space

Gym use one class period



## Weight Room

### Weightlifting



Located behind bleachers in West

Weight room used as student storage during assembly



4. Classroom usage/teachers without classrooms

Available rooms by periods for teacher planning, meetings, small-group testing/tutoring

	1	2	3	4	5
Grade 6 East	6	5	6	8	10
Grade 7 West	5	0	5	6	7
Grade 8 West	0	1	2	3	

\*State testing demands as well as technology proficiency require increased use of rooms by teachers during their planning periods.

\*Increased need for small-group tutoring & testing also requires space in addition to classrooms by periods.



## Traveling Teacher's Cart



10 teachers in West hall are on a cart.

5. Inadequate lab space & facilities conducive to technology-based instruction

## Science Classroom



## Computer lab in library



### CONSIDERATIONS:

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade appropriate at BFMS
  - 122 (23%) sixth graders enrolled in choir/band; 100 (19%) participate in intra-mural sports
- Age of BFMS East & West makes renovation/expansion feasible

### Suggestions for BFMS

1. Expand West gym for P.E. as well as assembly area; add health classroom space & weight room facility
2. Construct new classrooms totaling at least 50,000 square feet
3. Widen existing hallways

We appreciate...

Any help with much-needed expansion of our facilities that will match our quality staff and instructional plan.

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Ms. Debora Decker, Principal, Franklin County High School, presented a three parts of raw data regarding space at the high school and facility report and community issues.

Ms. Decker stated there were 3,500 students enrolled at the High School and Middle School. Ms. Decker shared with the Board a DVD of the spoken concerns.

Ms. Decker shared with the Board a schematic showing current areas with possible renovations. Mrs. Decker stated she had safety concerns regarding over-crowding conditions and the students crossing Tanyard Road going to the West Campus.

In summary, Dr. Lackey stated we are experiencing some overcrowding issues and it could take up to five years or longer if the economy does not pick up and we want to make sure the students can compete into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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Chairman Wagner adjourned the meeting.

CHARLES WAGNER  
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD E. HUFF, II  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR